

Addiction in American Indian Adults and the Role of Early Social Context



Sarah M. Budz, Nursing Student & Dr. Nicholas Guenzel, Ph.D., RN, APRN-NP
College of Nursing, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Introduction

- Substance abuse and addiction plague much of the United States, especially in the American Indian (AI) population.
- Substance abuse in the AI community is higher than any other ethnic group
- Many risk factors for addiction in the AI population
- High levels of stress can lead to addictive disease
- Looking back on childhood can provide vital information on why an adult is the way they are.

Specific Aims

Aim 1: To determine if having spent time in foster care is associated with subsequent addiction in AI adults.

Aim 2: To determine if having lived on a reservation is associated with subsequent addiction in AI adults.

Aim 3: To determine if first-degree familial substance abuse is associated with subsequent addiction in AI adults.

Addiction in American Indian Adults

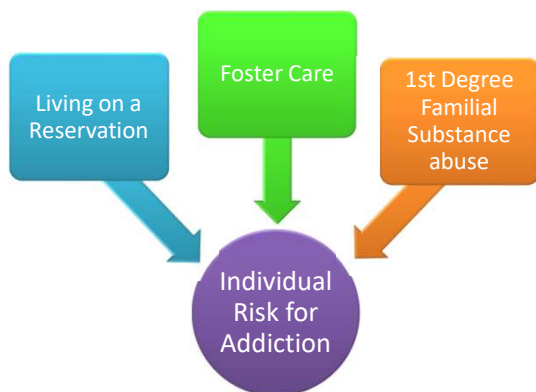
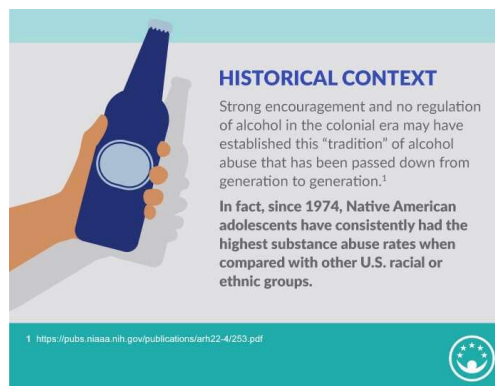


Figure 1. Conceptual Model

In the American Indian adult population, does early social context play a role in those who develop an addiction and those who do not?



Scan here for more information on the presenter

Methods

Design: Secondary Data Analysis

Sample: Self-identifying American Indian adults (19+ years) living within 30 miles outside of Omaha or Lincoln that have used a drug or alcohol at least once.

Procedure: A booth set up at local pow-wows and AI events, research assistants (RA) contacted people they knew who might qualify, and word-of-mouth were the main methods of finding participants. From here, RAs ensured they met inclusion/exclusion criteria; 41 participants were chosen for the "Substance Use Disorder" group and 41 were chosen for the "Non-Substance Use Disorder" group. A survey was administered by trained community members either over the phone or in person, and answers were entered into REDCap by RAs. A licensed drug and alcohol counselor (LDAC) called 8 random participants from each group and conducted an assessment determining if they likely had a drug/alcohol problem in the past.

Analysis: We will use chi-squared analysis for categorical variables and t-tests for continuous variables.

Results

Results are pending...

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Dr. Breanna Hetland for teaching Nursing 401 and helping me to better understand research and what it takes to obtain a PhD. Also, a big thank you to the Summer Undergraduate Research Program for giving me this opportunity.